AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1236 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1934 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary | VOL. 24, NO. 51

There is a destiny that makes us brothers—none goes his way alone.—Markham.

Editorials

Sales Tax Unfair to Workers

The American Federation of Labor has persistently held that the sales tax, federal, state, or municipal, is in reality nothing but a scheme to exempt the well-to-do from taxation and saddle the cost of government on those who are least able to pay.

The administration of the sales tax in Illinois confirms labor's contention. The law which became effective July 1, 1933, provided that the proceeds for the first six months should be devoted to unemployment relief. At the expiration of that period the proceeds were used to pay the expenses of the state government, which formerly had been met by taxes against the owners of real and personal property.

The sales tax now provides the state with $36,000,000 annually, with the result that no taxes are levied on real and personal property, which has an assessed valuation of five and one half billion dollars.

Practically all of this $36,000,000 is collected from the masses of the people of Illinois, most of whom are wage earners and persons with similar low income, while the well-to-do and rich, who are abundant able to pay, contribute relatively nothing toward paying the expenses of the State Government, whose activities are largely consecrated to protecting the interests of the very property owners why by the sales tax have secured tax exemption for their property.

Adequate organization in bona fide trade unions of the workers in every state, and the mobolization of that organized power at the ballot box to elect legislators opposed to the sales tax, would prevent this iniquity from being saddled on those whose living standards are altogether too low to permit further decrease by this notorious form of indirect taxation.

Explain Two Billion Dollar Loss

According to a recent statement by G. Munro Hubbard, president of the advertising firm of Doremus & Co., before the Advertising Club of Boston, the bankers of the United States should launch a widespread publicity campaign to explain the nature of the banking business. He said:

"If you want the lawmakers of the country to refrain from suicidal banking legislation, you can do nothing more effective than to make millions of voters understand what a banker is and what he is not."

Mr. Hubbard added that the "average man has not the faintest glimmering" of the bankers' place, function and limitations in our economic order.

Reports of United States Treasury officials state that millions of persons who deposited their savings with the bankers for safe-keeping, with very low interest rates, or no interest at all, as a protection against safety, have suffered a loss of around two billion dollars through the inefficiency, crookedness and downright dishonesty of thousands of these custodians of the people's thrift.

This figure represents only lost bank deposits, not including many billions lost in worthless "securities."

These victimized citizens long ago made up their minds that the major fault was chargeable to the first session of Congress under Roosevelt, was to borrow billions of dollars from depositors without proper security for repayment, loan the borrowed funds to bank directors and other business men on questionable collateral or no collateral at all, and, then, when business conditions or stock market conditions suffered a reverse, go into bankruptcy with the depositors suffering the major loss.

In case the bankers adopt Mr. Hubbard's suggestion, among the first things which should be explained, and justified, are the practices by which they swindled depositors out of these two billion dollars—a crime so enormous that the recent Congress of the United States enacted a Federal law guaranteeing the safety of bank deposits up to a maximum which protects practically all of the savings which the masses place in these institutions.

Workers Are Asked by A. F. of L. To Aid Enforcement of NRA Codes

Statement Is Issued Setting Forth "How and Why" of Cooperation.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Stating that "the success of the Recovery program depends upon enforcement of codes," the American Federation of Labor is calling upon all union members all over the country to take an active interest in this matter. A special statement prepared for release through the A. F. of L. News Service sets forth general information that should be the knowledge of all workers, in order that effective cooperation may be rendered. The statement follows:

"To All Union Members:

"1. Every employer operating under a code of fair competition is required by law to post the labor provisions of the code for the industry in conspicuous places where all the employes may conveniently see them. The Government is printing these posters and distributing them through the code authority for each industry to each business firm in the country. Almost all industries and trades with codes have now received their official posters. Whether an employer has received the official poster or not, however, he must still post a copy of the labor provisions. To protect your rights, therefore, it is up to each worker and to each union to see that your employer is posting the labor provisions of the code in a conspicuous place where everyone can see it. If you are not sure whether you are under a code, write to the Labor Advisory Board, NRA, Washington, D. C. If you want a complete copy of any approved code you may obtain it from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at 5 cents a copy.

"2. No employer may fly a Blue Eagle or a Code Badge without at the same time posting the labor provisions of the code under which he is operating. This applies to every kind of an establishment in the country from steel mills to barber shops.

"3. The Labor Advisory Board and the whole NRA welcome the active cooperation of workers in seeing that the labor provisions of the codes are not violated.

"President Roosevelt, in an Executive Order on May 15, provided:

"'No employer subject to a code of fair competition . . . shall dismiss or demote any employe for making complaint or giving evidence with respect to an alleged violation of the provisions of any code of fair competition . . .'

"Complaints that an employer is not complying with the labor provisions of a code should be made to the State Compliance Director whose address is printed on every official labor poster. Each complaint will be treated confidentially, if requested. An employe may, if he wishes, use his name, but it is not necessary. Anonymous complaints will also be investigated.

"Complaints that any employer fails to post the provisions, or posts them inconspicuously or incorrectly, or defaces or changes them, or any other complaint regarding posting should also be sent to the Labor Advisory Board, NRA, Washington, D. C.

"The success of the Recovery program depends upon compliance with the codes. Each worker should see to it that the labor provisions of his code are posted by his employer. He should report every violation to the State Compliance Director. It may be helpful also to report complaints to your union, especially if for any reason you need the protection of the union in filing complaints. Your union can be of assistance in other ways in securing satisfactory adjustments.

"For additional information do not hesitate to write to the American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C."

Labor Advisory Board's Recommendations Give Sound Basis for Recovery Act Revision

Imposition of Codes On Backward Industries, Equal Labor Representation On All Boards, Adequate Compliance, Among Things Favored

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—The National Industrial Recovery Board has received a memorandum from the Labor Advisory Board containing recommendations for revision of the National Industrial Recovery Act. Although there has been no opportunity for formal consideration of these recommendations, which were submitted Saturday, December 15, the National Industrial Recovery Board has made them public in the belief that discussion of all such proposals is desirable.

The Labor Advisory Board is composed of the following well-known people: William Green, acting chairman; John P. Frey, A. A. Franklin, Sidney Hillman, M. J. McDonough, James M. Duffy, A. O. Wharton, John L. Lewis, Father Francis P. Haas, Charles P. Howard, D. W. Tracy, Thomas F. McMahon and Rose Schneiderman.

The text of the memorandum, of especial concern to all organized labor and to wage earners generally, is as follows:

The Labor Advisory Board has endeavored to apply as effective and important part in the NRA organization since its creation in June of 1933. As advisers to labor in the field and as advisers to the administrative organization, it has participated in the drafting of the labor provisions of the code of fair competition. It has endeavored to aid in the administration and interpretation of these industrial laws during the past 17 months, carrying almost complete responsibility for those labor provisions dealing with wages, hours and conditions of employment.

In the light of the experience gained in this most important formative period, we submit the following recommendations for the necessary changes in the National Industrial Recovery Act. In presenting these recommendations on our belief that the NRA should be perpetuated as a permanent part of the Nation's social and economic structure and that its underlying assumptions of equality be strengthened rather than drastically upset. We believe, however, that if the underlying assumption of economic democracy is to be even approached, these recommendations must be carried out. They are aimed at correcting the outstanding failures of the NRA to accomplish this objective for labor.

Voluntary Character of Codes

Section 3 (a) of the Recovery Act provides that trade or industrial associations or groups may apply for codes of fair competition. Before they receive the approval of the act, there are a large number of major industries, employing hundreds of thousands of workers, that have failed to voluntarily submit any codes. Some important industries have submitted codes whose labor provisions are so unacceptable to labor that the NRA administration that they could not be approved.

In these cases labor remains not only without the protection of minimum wage and maximum hours provisions, but without even the coverage of Section 7-A of the act as to collective bargaining rights to better their position. In other cases it has been labor's unhappy experience that the voluntary character of the codes and their administration resulted in frequent imposition of undesirable provisions on labor in the industry.

The Labor Advisory Board does not believe that the purpose of the act to provide for the general welfare by promoting the organization of industry and its maximum participation of labor and management under adequate governmental supervision can be accomplished on the sole basis of voluntary action by industry. The experience so far shows that this can be accomplished only by force or deliberate inaction in many important industries.

We, therefore, recommend that the act be amended to give power to a special board, on which labor shall have equal representation, to propose labor codes on any industry which has not voluntarily presented an acceptable code, to make amendments to any code which in the board's judgement requires amendment, and to apply Section 7-A of the act to any industry, trade, or group which has not been codified. In this way, and only in this way, will the purposes of the act be effectuated.

Wage Provisions

Section 1 of Title I of the act declares the policy of Congress is, among other things, "to eliminate unfair practices . . . to increase the consumption of industrial and agricultural products by increasing purchasing power . . ." In order to accomplish this purpose, such codes provide a minimum wage which has brought the wages paid to the least skilled and least experienced workers in the trade or industry up to a minimum standard.

But this group of unskilled and inexperienced workers represents a small part of the 40,000,000 employed in American industry. Hence the majority of those workers covered by codes have been left to the precarious mercy of unethical thinking clause calling for an equitable adjustment of all those wages above the minimum.

Only 47 codes contain any provision for maintaining the wage differentials whose skill and experience justify a higher earning power than that of the lowest paid workers. The result has been to leave an unfair competitive situation in the wages paid in many industries, often at the expense of those plants who were paying a fair wage before the code. In fact, in many cases the minimum wages became the maximum, while in a few instances the basic rates of wages were reduced to make up for the increased wages of those brought up to the minimum rate or even to pay the wage bill of the workers re-employed by reason of the hours reductions.

After more than a year's experience, we are convinced that only by establishing separate minimum [illegible] common, semi-skilled and skilled labor can any approach to a practicable solution of this problem be found. That is the only effective way to accomplish a wage situation which will mean fair competitive conditions and increased purchasing power. We, therefore, recommend that the act be amended to specifically provide for including different minima for common, semi-skilled and skilled labor in codes of fair competition.

Labor Representation

Section 1 of Title I of the act declares that one of the policies of Congress shall be "to provide for the general welfare by promoting the organization of industry for the purpose of cooperative action among trade groups, to induce and maintain united action of labor and management under adequate governmental sanctions and supervision." Yet on over 500 separate code authorities established thus far, only 23 include any adequate representation of the labor interest. In the remaining industries, "united action of labor and management" remains accidental or mythical.

The Labor Advisory Board believes that desirable and practical industrial relations depend upon proper machinery for an economic democracy. We believe that the means to attain united action of labor and management depends upon giving labor the same opportunity to organize for collective action that has been accorded to employers in the code procedure, and, further, in giving labor an equal opportunity with management in the administration of the industrial laws which NRA has created.

We, therefore, recommend that the act be amended to provide specifically that labor be equally represented, with management on all code authorities or on any other administrative bodies established to administer codes of fair competition, including the National Industrial Recovery Board or its successors.

Compliance

During the first year's experience under codes of fair competition, one of the major obstacles toward an effective program has been the lack of compliance. The effort to live up to codes which are not adhered to by competitors is a costly and disastrous process. The widespread violation of those code provisions which are loose and easily evaded makes the improvement of codes all the more difficult. There results a cumulative undermining of the whole code structure.

The machinery for compliance has recently been reinforced by the establishment of 10 regional compliance boards with labor representation, and by the creation of a program of industry enforcement whereby inspection of establishments will supplant the investigation of complaints. The Labor Advisory Board heartily supports and endorses this renewed effort for enforcement of code provisions.

Since the establishment and proper administration of effective compliance machinery depends largely on individuals whose tenure of office is problematical, we recommend that the act be amended to incorporate into legislation those provisions for proper enforcement machinery which are now being undertaken.

Code Amendments

The Labor Advisory Board acts as the connecting link between the National Recovery Administration and those millions of workers in the field for whose protection the labor provisions in the codes are being administered. It, therefore, stands in a position to gain an intimate knowledge of the effect of code provisions on labor, of the abuses and of the subterfuges by which the codes are evaded. It is in a position to know what provisions of codes are ineffectual or are detrimental to the workers in each industry.

The experience of the past year and a half has proved, however, that it is practically impossible to put the benefits of such experience into effect. Industry may propose amendments with every possibility of adoption. But labor representatives find it impossible to propose amendments except at such time as an industry initiates changes in its codes and frequently not even at such times.

In order that the voice of all interests may be assessed, and that the experience of all groups may be utilized to make the codes flexible instruments for a democratic control of industry, the Labor Advisory Board requests that the act be amended to provide specifically for the opening of codes upon the initiative of the Labor Advisory Board, and for the imposition of such amendments where the necessity has been clearly justified.

Statistics and Planning

Section 2-B of Title I of the act empowers the President to establish an industrial planning and research agency to aid him in carrying out his functions under the title. Section 3-A empowers him to impose requirements for the making of reports and the keeping of accounts, as a condition of his approval of any code.

Thus far very little effective work has been done to establish an adequate program for the collection of nationwide statistics. Even less effective have been efforts looking toward real industry and inter-industry planning on a comprehensive scale. Many different agencies of the Government are engaged in planning and research but are not effectively integrated. Planning efforts have been left in the hands of individual code authorities with membership primarily representing a small segment of only the management factor in the code industry. The inadequacy of this handling of important national economic problems can be seen clearly because of the drastic immediate program which has been prosecuted.

The Labor Advisory Board believes that real steps should be taken to budget production, to plan for inter-industry relations, to stabilize employment, and to increase the Nation's buying power. Centralized planning power in accordance with the policies set forth in Title I, Section 1 of the act is necessary to coordinate and better coordinated statistical data is an imperative feature of such a program.

We, therefore, recommend that Title II be implemented by the addition of a provision for the establishment of a more adequate instrument for such planning, empowered more definitely to accomplish this end. Such an instrument of the Government should have full mandatory power to collect detailed statistics from each industry on employment, wages, payrolls, production, income, costs, profits and whatever other data it finds necessary or desirable.

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR *extends to you sincere Christmas Greetings, with the hope that the New Year may bring all nearer to the goal of prosperity and happiness.*

WILLIAM GREEN, *President;*
FRANK MORRISON, *Secretary.*

BIG BUSINESS REITERATES ITS UNSOCIAL POLICIES

Conference At White Sulphur Springs A "Flop," Except For Possibility Of Real Harm To Common People.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.—The widely heralded "conference" of big business, sponsored jointly by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, after nearly going on the rocks in the early stages, due to the presence of a few open-minded progressive business leaders, finally reiterated the usual unsocial policies of American big business.

Nothing new was done, no new policies developed, no new spirit of co-operation was manifest, and no new leader with a social vision was produced; and for these reasons failure marks the conference as a complete "flop," except for the usual menace of unsocial policies to the common people.

Following is a summary of the reactionary position taken by American big business, in connection with several subjects that were given consideration:

Relief—Gradual elimination of work relief and substitution of direct relief to state and local communities as soon as possible; a payment of lower than prevailing wages on work projects to which the Government already is committed.

Unemployment Reserves—Postponement, pending a study by a business committee, of unemployment insurance and old-age pensions.

Industrial Relations—Recognition of right of collective bargaining for both employers and employes, each free from coercion; prohibition of sympathetic strikes, lockouts, blacklists and boycotts; prevention of arbitrary limitation on wages and hours such as the 30-hour week bill.

Federal Finance—Balancing of the Federal budget as soon as possible; confining of relief to the "indispensible minimum" in order that balance might be reached by the end of 1937.

Business Finance—Return to the gold standard as soon as possible, maintenance of privately controlled banking system; modification of the Securities Act's permission for member banks of the Federal Reserve System to engage in securities underwriting of the British type.

Agriculture—Affirmation of economic unity between agriculture and industry; elimination of "arbitrary" restrictions on production and processing; cooperation with private trade associations, retiring unproductive submarginal lands from production.

NRA—Continuation of the Recovery Act for one year from the expiration date of June 16, 1935; codes to be voluntary, with an earnest request for each industry not adopting codes to adhere to the provisions for maximum hours, minimum wages and prohibition of child labor; opposition to "red tape" and against "burdensome or unfair" price levels.

Durable Goods Industries—Encouragement of the free flow of private capital; establishment of a sound real estate mortgage structure; reduction of costs and elimination of all direct federal competition in durable industries.

Government Competition—Removal of Government competition from all fields of private endeavor, including production and distribution of goods for relief.

Foreign Trade—Stabilization of world currencies; removal of quotas, barriers, exchange restrictions and discriminatory agreements; "prompt reconsideration" of the foreign debts.

Transportation—Permit private enterprise a free hand in developing transportation facilities with governmental financial aid.

CCC Will Take On 60,000 In January

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Robert Fechner, Director of Emergency Conservation Work, has announced approval of a replacement program providing for the enrollment of approximately 60,000 new men into the Civilian Conservation Corps during the first thirteen days of January, 1935, when they will begin to be utilized to fill vacancies which will exist in the Corps membership January 31, the end of the first half of the fourth six-month period of Civilian Conservation Corps work.

The January enrollment, which will be carried out by the War Department, the Department of Labor and the Veterans Administration, is expected to bring the enrolled personnel of the forest camps up to the maximum authorized figure of 370,000. As of November 15, the actual enrolled strength of the forest camps was 345,000.

Subversive Activities of Communists Revealed In Detail by President Green

Acting On Behalf of the A. F. of L., He Submits Clear-Cut Documentary Evidence To Congressional Committee

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Appearing before a special Congressional committee, headed by Representative McCormack, which was appointed by the House of Representatives to inquire into Communist activities in America, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, laid before the committee what is regarded as the most comprehensive statement, supported by documentary evidence, that has so far been forthcoming in the effort to reveal the insidious and subversive activities of Communists in this country.

Later, President Green prepared a statement, giving a resumé of the evidence presented to the committee. Due to the vital importance of this matter, together with extensive interest in the subject, the complete summary statement of President Green is given herewith:

"The American Federation of Labor believes that Communist activities within this country constitute a substantial interference with the work of constructive organization. We do not believe that the Communist movement in this country is sufficiently strong numerically nor in influence to constitute a danger to American institutions at the present time. The increase in activity during the past year is plain evidence that unless checked Communist activities will grow in scope and interference so that they will inevitably constitute a definite menace. So direct and so fundamental is the opposition and philosophies of Communism to American ideals of democracy that they cannot exist together.

"On behalf of the American Federation of Labor, I wish to submit documentary evidence of the efforts of Communist organizations to undermine trade unionism and to get control of the organized labor movement, and the substitution of a revolutionary organization to overthrow American economic and political institutions in the control of all. I offer for your consideration the following:

"1. Report on Communist Propaganda in America, as submitted to the State Department of the United States Government by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor. This is a compilation of happenings and documents showing the extent of Communist activity in this country. It is not a complete history, but it is illustrative of the type of thing that is increasing.

"2. The American Federation of Labor has submitted to previous Communist propaganda in the United States. This evidence is continued Case. This evidence will be found in the hearings before the Special Committee to Investigate Communist Activities in the United States, Seventy-first Congress, Second Session, Part 1, Volume 1, and Part 3, Volume 2, 1930. Particular attention is called to the testimony which I gave at that time which will be found beginning on page 43 of Part 1, Volume 1 of the above-named report, and to that offered by Edward F. McGrady which is contained in the same publication beginning on page 151. The testimony presented by Mr. McGrady deals specifically with Communist activities in the Fur Workers' Union.

"3. On page 26 of the report submitted by Representative Fish of the committee referred to above will be found reference to the work of the American Federation of Labor in dealing with Communist activities. (Report No. 2290, Seventy-first Congress, Third Session.) The American Federation of Labor is constantly on the alert for evidences of increased activity on the part of Communist organizations and endeavors to wage a unified organizations of the new and varied forms which this activity takes from time to time.

"4. Copies of circular letters which have been sent out from time to time are as follows:

"a. Letter sent out under date of February 9, 1933, to the parent organizations of the various locals listed on the letterhead of the so-called "A. F. of L. Trade Union Committee for Unemployment Insurance and Relief," denouncing the committee and the purposes for which it was formed. This letter called on the national and international unions concerned to instruct their locals to sever any relationship which they might have with this committee.

"b. Letter dated August 6, 1934, sent to all state federations of labor and city central bodies under date of November 22, 1934, denouncing the so-called "Conference for Unemployment Insurance and Relief" is further evidenced by the establishment of branches of this committee in the important industrial centers of the United States. A letter from the president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, dated October 31, 1934, and containing important enclosures, prompted us to at once send out a letter to the national and international unions concerned asking for their co-operation in having their locals refrain from any connection with the committee in question. (5a) Typical of the replies received in connection with the plans of this committee is that by the endorsement of trade unions of the American Federation of Labor are the ones accompanying this statement. (5b) The tactics followed by the Communist organization are plainly attempts to mislead the unwary by the use and support of organizations, some individual members of which may be connected with the Communist group.

"6. Formal call for the conference scheduled to be held January 5-7, inclusive, 1935, in Washington, D. C. This call carries on its letterhead a list of the sponsors, many of whom are quite unknown to me. However, among these names is that of Esther Penn, secretary of the American Federation of Government Employees. This name was used without the knowledge or the authority of the person concerned, and insofar as this one person, whom I am known, is concerned, the call and purpose of this Congress is absolutely lacking in authority. I am not concerned or interested in the other names, but the facts cited at least would make it necessary to investigate as to whether there is due warrant for the use of all of the other names before they can be accepted as bona fide endorsement.

"7. Letter sent to all locals of the American Federation of Labor in Washington, D. C., for conference which was scheduled to be held on February 20, 1934. Accompanying this letter is a circular which was sent out by the secretary of the Washington Commercial Union in response to a letter which I directed to him.

"8. Copy of the November 17, 1934, issue of the "Daily Worker" contains the call for the Congress of the Communist group working for the so-called "Workers Bill for Unemployment Insurance." This is an article by Louis Weinstock attacking the position of the American Federation of Labor on unemployment insurance legislation.

"9. Copy of the December 11, 1934, issue of the "Daily Worker" containing a statement of the Central Committee, C. P. U. S. A., setting forth the concerted plan of the Communist Party of the United States to proselytize the non-Communist elements in the bona fide American labor movement. Particular attention is called to the outline of topics to be discussed in connection with the Seventh Congress—Sections 4 and 5.

"10. Copy of the January, 1934, issue of "Party Organizer," issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party, U. S. A. Special attention is called to page 19 dealing with the activities of the Communists in the Ford plant (selected because of its strategic importance to the party) and to page 23, dealing with the strike in the Nash automobile plant.

"11. All evidence of the un-American activity of the Communist group in the United States, I submit the following documents which are principally publications or reports submitted by the various branches of the organization:

"a. Call for conference, Cleveland, August 24-27, 1933; circulars issued in connection with the conference, copy of the Final Manifesto adopted by the Central Committee of the Communist Party, U. S. A. Special attention is called to page 19 dealing with the activities of the Communists in the Ford plant (selected because of its strategic importance to the party) and to page 23, dealing with the strike in the Nash automobile plant.

"b. An open letter dated March 29, 1933, directed, among other groups, to the National Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, and signed "The Workers Party of America."

"c. Letter dated May 19, 1934, to "District organizers" of the Communist Party, requesting articles from key persons in various production industries. One of the topics suggested was "Work in the A. F. of L."

MAY FORCE CODES ON BACKWARD INDUSTRIES

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—As the N.R.A. board and other Administration officials continue preparation of recommendations for the next session of Congress, it was indicated that legislative means may be sought to place under code regulation those industries as far still, outside of the N.R.A. fold. These include, particularly, the lumber, coal mining, shipping and meat packing industries.

Another interesting development is that Roosevelt is reported to have said as saying it has been decided the Sherman anti-trust laws must remain as they are, regardless of many protests of monopolism.

The N.R.A. board is reported to have under consideration, recommending to President Roosevelt that the proposed Federal Wages and Hours Act should include a provision which would make hour and wage requirements for "uncoded" industries particularly stringent.

Urge Replanning of Prison Industries

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Recommendation for complete replanning of the prison industries of the states, which will remove prison-made goods from the open market and end the long debated controversy on the subject, was made to the National Industrial Recovery Board by a special investigating committee. Use of $50,000,000 Public Works funds for the purpose was advocated.

The committee urged that, until such time as the system it suggested is brought about, the Federal Board use its good offices through the President and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration to direct that "use in state and federal institutions as the Federal Emergency Relief Administration may deem preferable."

"The purchase of these garments by the FERA from the state prisons," it continued," should be scheduled on a declining scale, and should cease at the end of two years."

THREE BOARDS TO DECIDE WORK LOADS IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—The National Textile Labor Relations Board, created under the provisions of the Wagner Act, and by which it was created, has appointed three committees, or boards, to determine work loads in each of the three principal divisions of the textile industry.

William A. Mitchell, who has been a textile expert for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, will be impartial chairman of all three boards and will receive $7,000 a year.

Other members of the boards are:

Cotton—Godfrey C. Brown of East Orange, N. J., for labor, and Elgin B. Stall of Greenville, S. C., for the industry.

Silk—E. L. Oliver of Cincinnati, for labor, and John W. Nickerson of Manchester, Conn., for the industry.

Wool—Ruth Reicker of Washington, for labor, and Harold J. Walter of Uxbridge, Mass., for the industry.

The boards are to report their findings to the Textile Labor Board. Employers, in the strike settlement, agreed not to increase the work load before February 1, 1935.

40,000 PENNSYLVANIANS LOSE OLD AGE PENSIONS

Harrisburg, Pa.—Pennsylvania's new old-age pension system has been put into effect by the State Department of Welfare, with $1,253,333.34 earmarked for payment of pension checks for December and January.

It is estimated 40,000 people will receive aid from the fund. No person may receive more than $30 a month, but for each additional member of a family eligible for assistance $15 a month is allowed.